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NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD OF WAR ORGANIZATION

FIRST MEETING, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1918

The meeting convened at 9.30 a.m. in the offices of the Council, 1023 16th Street, Washington, D. C., with Mr. Hale, the Chairman of the Council, in the chair.

Present: Marston T. Bogert, John J. Carty, Whitman Cross, Gano Dunn, George E. Hale, John Johnston, Vernon L. Kellogg, Charles E. Mendenhall, Richard M. Pearce, Charles D. Walcott, Robert S. Woodward, Robert M. Yerkes, and by invitation, Henry N. Russell.

The minutes of the joint meeting of the Council of the National Academy of Sciences and the Executive Committee of the National Research Council of January 17, 1918, were presented and approved.

The Chairman of the Council reported:

1. That arrangements have been made to rent the building at 1015 16th Street N.W., at a rental of \$250 per month, from March 1 to September 15, 1918, in order to accommodate the growing activities of the Council, particularly in coöperation with the U. S. Signal Corps.

2. That Mr. Johnston has accepted his election as Executive Secretary of the Council to date from February 1, 1918.

3. That Sidney W. Farnsworth of the Westinghouse Electric Company has been appointed Technical Assistant of the London Section of the Research Information Committee, and that all members of the London and Paris Sections of this Committee have sailed for their posts of duty, with the exception of Mr. Farnsworth, who will leave shortly.

4. That for personal reasons it has become necessary for Harold D. Babcock, Technical Assistant of the Washington Section of the Research Information Committee, to resign and to return to California. His resignation took effect on February 17, 1918.

5. That Graham Edgar of Throop College of Technology, has accepted appointment as Technical Assistant of the Washington Committee in Mr. Babcock's place and expects to assume his duties about March 15.

6. That Clarence H. Mackay has contributed the sum of \$1000 for expenses in connection with the work of the Sub-Committee on Protective Body Armor of the Engineering Committee of the Council.

7. That the Chairman has prepared a report of the activities of the Council for the year 1917, to be incorporated in the annual report of the National Academy of Sciences, and that with this report will also appear a statement of the contributions and appropriations which have been made available for expenditure under the direction of the Council or with its coöperation.

The Chairman of the Council submitted the following report of action taken by the Executive Committee of the Executive Board of the Council under authority granted at the joint meeting of the Council of the National Academy of Sciences and the Executive Committee of the National Research Council, on January 17.

1. That the following six members at large have been appointed to membership on the Executive Board of the Council:

John J. Carty, Arthur A. Noyes, Van H. Manning, Michael I. Pupin, William H. Welch and Robert S. Woodward.

2. That it has been impossible for Major Flexner to accept the chairmanship of the Division of Medicine, Hygiene, Surgery, Anatomy, Anthropology, Physiology, Psychology and Zoology, and that Richard M. Pearce, of the University of Pennsylvania, has been appointed Chairman in his place, and that the title of the Division has been changed to read "Division of Medicine and Related Sciences."

3. That an Executive Committee of the Division of Medicine and Related Sciences has been appointed as follows:

Richard M. Pearce, Chairman, Robert M. Yerkes, Vice-Chairman, Charles B. Davenport, Simon Flexner, William H. Howell, Charles H. Mayo, William J. Mayo, F. F. Russell, Edward R. Stitt, V. C. Vaughan, and William H. Welch.

4. That an Executive Committee of the Division of Geology and Geography has been appointed as follows:

John C. Merriam, Chairman, Whitman Cross, Vice-Chairman, Frank W. DeWolf, Douglas W. Johnson, and Philip S. Smith.

5. That Vernon L. Kellogg, of Leland Stanford Junior University, has been appointed Chairman of the Division of Agriculture, Forestry, Botany, Fisheries and Zoology.

6. That Charles E. Mendenhall has been appointed Vice-Chairman of the Division of Physics, Mathematics, Astronomy and Geophysics.

7. That Henry M. Howe, Bedford Hills, New York, has accepted appointment as Chairman of the Section on Metallurgy of the Engineering Division of the Council.

The Chairman also presented the following financial statement showing expenditures on account of the work of the Council since the meeting of the Executive Committee of January 17.

Account in Riggs National Bank

Balance on hand January 17, 1918.....	\$551.93	
Total deposits January 17 to February 26.....	5000.00	
		<hr/>
		\$5551.93
Salaries.....	\$547.59	
Expenses and Supplies.....	3615.43	
Equipment.....	568.62	
		<hr/>
Total expenditures.....	4731.64	4731.64
		<hr/>
Balance on hand.....		\$820.29

Upon motion Colonel Carty was nominated and elected as Chairman of the Executive Board of the Council, and thereupon occupied the chair.

The resignation of Russell H. Chittenden as Chairman of the Committee on Research in Educational Institutions was presented and accepted with regret.

After discussion the appointment of an Executive Committee of the Executive Board of the Council was reconsidered and upon motion the previous action in establishing such a Committee was rescinded. Thereupon it was

voted, upon motion of Mr. Dunn, that a small Committee with executive powers, consisting of the general officers of the Council and of the Chairmen of its Divisions, be appointed, to be known as the Interim Committee, to serve between meetings of the Executive Board for consideration of current business. It was also voted that five members of the Interim Committee shall constitute a quorum.

Mr. Dunn spoke of the desirability of maintaining reciprocal relations and associations with the Engineering Foundation, and after discussion it was

RESOLVED, that in conformity with the policy of The Engineering Foundation expressed in its resolution of September 20, 1917, addressed to the National Research Council, and subject to the approval of The Engineering Foundation, the National Research Council hereby designates Alfred D. Flinn, secretary of The Engineering Foundation, as assistant secretary of the National Research Council, without salary, for a period of one year from date, and in turn is ready reciprocally to approve the designation by The Engineering Foundation of John Johnston, secretary of the National Research Council, as an assistant secretary of The Engineering Foundation on the same terms and for the same period.

Upon suggestion of the Chairman of the Council, an Information Section of the Administrative Division was established, to include the work of the Research Information Committee and other similar activities. He read the following statement relative to the purpose and functions of the Research Information Committee.

RESEARCH INFORMATION COMMITTEE

1. By joint action the Secretaries of War and Navy, with the approval of the Council of National Defense, have authorized and approved the organization, through the National Research Council, of a Research Information Committee in Washington with Branch Committees in Paris and London, which are intended to work in close coöperation with the offices of the Military and Naval Intelligence, and whose function shall be the securing, classifying, and disseminating of scientific, technical, and industrial research information, especially relating to war problems, and the interchange of such information between the Allies in Europe and the United States.

2. In Washington the Committee consists of:

(a) A civilian member, representing the National Research Council, S. W. Stratton, Chairman.

(b) The Chief, Military Intelligence Section.

(c) The Director of Naval Intelligence.

3. The initial organization of the Committee in London is:

(a) The Scientific Attaché, representing the Research Information Committee, H. A. Bumstead, Attaché.

(b) The Military Attaché, or an officer deputed to act for him.

(c) The Naval Attaché, or an officer deputed to act for him.

4. The initial organization of the Committee in Paris is:

(a) The Scientific Attaché, representing the Research Information Committee, W. F. Durand, Attaché.

(b) The Military Attaché, or an officer deputed to act for him.

(c) The Naval Attaché, or an officer deputed to act for him.

5. The chief functions of the foreign committees thus organized are intended to be as follows:

(a) The development of contact with all important research laboratories or agencies, governmental or private; the compilation of problems and subjects under investigation; and the collection and compilation of the results obtained.

(b) The classification, organization, and preparation of such information for transmission to the Research Information Committee in Washington.

(c) The maintenance of continuous contact with the work of the offices of Military and Naval Attachés in order that all duplication of work or crossing of effort may be avoided, with the consequent waste of time and energy and the confusion resulting from crossed or duplicated effort.

(d) To serve as an immediate auxiliary to the offices of the Military and Naval Attachés in the collection, analysis, and compilation of scientific, technical, and industrial research information.

(e) To serve as an agency at the immediate service of the Commander-in-Chief of the Military or Naval Forces in Europe for the collection and analysis of scientific and technical research information, and as an auxiliary to such direct military and naval agencies as may be in use for the purpose.

(f) To serve as centers of distribution to the American expeditionary forces in France and to the American naval forces in European waters of scientific and technical research information, originating in the United States and transmitted through the Research Information Committee in Washington.

(g) To serve as centers of distribution to our Allies in Europe of scientific, technical, and industrial research information originating in the United States and transmitted through the Research Information Committee in Washington.

(h) The maintenance of the necessary contact between the offices in Paris and London in order that provision may be made for the direct and prompt interchange of important scientific and technical information.

(i) To aid research workers, or collectors of scientific, technical, and industrial information from the United States, when properly accredited from the Research Information Committee in Washington, in best achieving their several and particular purposes.

6. The headquarters of the Research Information Committee in Washington is in the offices of the National Research Council, 1023 Sixteenth Street; the Branch Committees are located at the American Embassies in London and Paris.

It was decided upon nomination of the Chairman of the Council to request the President of the National Academy of Sciences to appoint the following gentlemen, who will in future have an active part in its work, as additional members of the Council:

Henry M. Howe, Emeritus Professor of Metallurgy, Columbia University.

Vernon L. Kellogg, Professor of Entomology, Leland Stanford Jr. University.

S. L. G. Knox, President, Knox Engineering Company, San Francisco, California.

William J. Mayo, Surgeon General's Office, U. S. A.

Charles H. Mayo, Rochester, Minnesota.

Richard M. Pearce, Professor of Research Medicine, University of Pennsylvania.

Colonel F. F. Russell, Surgeon General's Office, U. S. A.

Rear Admiral Edward L. Stitt, Medical Director, Naval Medical School.

Robert S. Woodward, President, Carnegie Institution of Washington.

Mr. Johnston reported verbally with regard to plans for the section on Industrial research and Mr. Hale stated that Mr. Elihu Root has accepted appointment as a member of the Advisory Committee of this section.

The Chairman of the Council reported with regard to proposals for the organization of the Engineering Division and also stated that it has been decided to organize a Section on Design in the Science and Research Division of the Signal Corps, under the chairmanship of Mr. S. L. G. Knox.

Upon nomination of the chairman of the Division of Physics, Mathematics, Astronomy, and Geophysics, the appointment of a Camouflage Committee was approved with membership as follows:

M. Luckiesh, Chairman, Bassett Jones, Lloyd A. Jones, G. H. Thayer.

The Chairman of the Division of Chemistry and Chemical Technology reported that Samuel Avery, Chancellor of the University of Nebraska, has come to Washington to aid in the work of the Division, to which he is devoting his entire time. He also reported on the progress of work under this Division and of the close and valuable coöperation which is being maintained with the War Industries Board and other Governmental agencies.

The Chairman of the Division of Geology and Geography explained the activities of this Division and outlined the nature of the special monograph work which has been proposed by the Army War College. After discussion it was voted that the question of allotment of a sum not to exceed \$6000, to be expended for this work, be referred to the Interim Committee, with authority to act. Explanation was made that of this amount the sum of \$1000 would be needed for the expenses of the Assistant to Major D. W. Johnson, who expects to go to France to obtain information for the monograph work, the remaining \$5000 to be used for the expenses of assistants to be engaged upon this work in Washington.

The Chairman of the Division of Medicine and Related Sciences read a report in regard to the organization, purpose, and work of this division as follows:

Purpose.—To concentrate in Washington a comparatively small body of men representing the existing committees, and thus provide for effective coöperation in the rapid organization of medical research as an aid to the solution of urgent military problems.

Field.—Medicine, Surgery, Hygiene, Physiology, Anatomy, Psychology, Psychiatry, Physical Anthropology, and closely related subjects.

Methods.—1. To coöperate closely with the Surgeon General of the Army (through Colonel Russell) and of the Navy (through Dr. Stitt) in determining urgent problems and to enlist the aid of civilian laboratories in the solution of these problems.

2. To assist the Surgeons General of the Army and Navy in procuring trained investigators to enter the respective services as contract surgeons to undertake special field investigations during short periods of time.

3. To send, if it is considered advisable, individuals to England, France, and Italy to determine the urgent problems which should be taken up without loss of time in civilian laboratories in this country.

4. To invite, if it is considered necessary, commissions or individuals from England, France and Italy to this country to advise with the Medical Division of the National Research Council.

5. To maintain correspondence with prominent medical investigators in the American Expeditionary Forces and in civilian laboratories in France, England and Italy and thus obtain reports of the important fields of research, the character of the work in progress and the needs of the workers.

6. To establish relations with and if agreeable to them, to coöperate with research organizations abroad as (a) British Medical Research Committee, (b) the Research Society recently organized in France by medical officers of the American, French and British forces, and (c) the Committee on Medical Research of the American Red Cross in France.

7. To obtain reports of all medical research organizations in this country dealing with war problems and of individuals engaged in the investigation of war problems.

8. (a) Prepare lists of individuals and laboratories equipped and ready to undertake research at short notice.

(b) Prepare lists of individuals who will hold themselves in readiness to move from laboratory to laboratory to work for shorter or longer periods on special or emergency problems or to augment existing laboratory staffs in a group of selected laboratories.

9. To maintain a bureau for the dissemination of up-to-date bibliographies of all forms of medical research bearing on war problems.

10. To hold conferences from time to time in Washington or other central city for discussion of important research problems and methods of attack.

11. To hold military medical meetings from time to time, in the neighborhood of large cantonments, for the discussion of medical problems by military and civilian physicians.

The Chairman of this Division also outlined the character of investigations already undertaken in coöperation with the Surgeon General's office of the Army. The Chairman of the Council stated that requests had been received for information which might require an extension of the proposed activities of the Anthropology Committee, operating under the Division of Medicine and Related Sciences. Upon motion it was voted that the Interim Committee be authorized to make such additional appointments to membership in the Anthropology Committee as may be advisable in order to provide adequately for future work which may be undertaken by this Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 12 o'clock.

JOHN JOHNSTON, *Secretary.*